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Minister of State
Youth



Ministre d'État
Jeunesse

The Honourable
Jean J. Charest

L'honorable



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 1989

89-28



Federal Government announces \$1,000,000 funding to combat illiteracy

OTTAWA -- Minister of State for Youth, Fitness and Amateur Sport, Jean J. Charest, today announced funding by the federal government for 34 voluntary organizations throughout Canada, for a total contribution of \$1,000,000 under the Literacy Corps Program. The funding is almost double last year's total.

"Lack of literacy skills continues to be a barrier for too many Canadians, young and old," said Mr. Charest. "With the celebration of International Literacy Year in 1990, there is no better time to make Canadians aware of this problem and intensify our efforts to provide literacy training."

Canada

Citing the link between illiteracy, education level and self-sufficiency, Mr. Charest noted that the unemployment rate for Canadians with less than a grade nine education was twice the national average. For those under 25 years old, the rate doubles again.

"Assisting young people, particularly those most in need, to make the jump into the labour market is an important commitment of the federal government," said Mr. Charest. "The Literacy Corps Program helps young Canadians overcome barriers to employment."

"Work is one of the ways in which we participate in society. As a result, a person can feel marginalized if lack of literacy skills forces them to be unemployed or underemployed," Mr. Charest said.

Under the federal government's Literacy Corps Program, which is administered by Employment and Immigration Canada, non-profit community organizations train volunteer tutors to help clients improve their ability to read and write. Many of these clients are under 25, and include new Canadians, single parents, Native Canadians, school dropouts and ex-offenders. The program supports federal efforts in the area of literacy, which are co-ordinated by the National Literacy Secretariat of the Department of the Secretary of State.

"Since it was established in 1984, this program has been very successful in helping Canadians, particularly young people, fulfil their basic educational needs, thereby enhancing their employability and self-confidence," said Mr. Charest. A total of 138 projects have been made possible since 1984 with funding in the amount of \$3,160,000.

A list of projects is attached.

For information:

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**Organizations to receive funding under Literacy Corps
Program, 1989-90**

- Native Education Centre - Urban Native Indian Education Society, Vancouver, British Columbia (\$34,265)
- Little Mountain Neighbourhood House Society, Vancouver, British Columbia (\$24,000)
- Project Literacy Kelowna Society, Kelowna, British Columbia (\$50,000)
- Matsqui-Abbotsford Community Services, Abbotsford, British Columbia (\$13,000)
- Grande Prairie Regional College, Grande Prairie, Alberta (\$15,791)
- Medicine Hat College (Able Project), Medicine Hat, Alberta (\$32,000)
- The Calgary John Howard Society, Calgary, Alberta (\$25,000)
- YMCA, Edmonton, Alberta (\$30,000)
- Red Deer College Volunteer Tutor Bank, Red Deer, Alberta (\$14,000)
- Regina Public Library, Regina, Saskatchewan (\$24,000)
- Frontier College - Winnipeg Literacy, Winnipeg, Manitoba (\$14,000)
- Winnipeg Volunteer Reading Aides, Winnipeg, Manitoba (\$50,000)
- Portage Youth Justice Committee, Portage La Prairie, Manitoba (\$40,000)
- Peel Literacy Guild, Toronto, Ontario (\$48,875)
- Kingston Literacy, Kingston, Ontario (\$55,825)
- Frontier College - Literacy for Youth, Toronto, Ontario (\$14,500)
- Fort Frances Volunteer Bureau, Fort Frances, Ontario (\$5,200)

- Thunder Bay Literacy Group, Thunder Bay, Ontario (\$6,000)
- YMCA, Metropolitan Toronto, Ontario (\$50,000)
- Black Community Council of Quebec Inc., Montreal, Quebec (\$43,575)
- Centre Portugais de référence et promotion sociale, Montréal, Québec (\$28,575)
- La Maison Alpha, Sherbrooke, Québec (\$31,000)
- La Jarnigoine Inc., Montréal, Québec (\$23,575)
- La Maison d'Haïti Inc., Montréal, Québec (\$21,000)
- L'Arbralette Inc., Sherbrooke, Québec (\$17,465)
- Atout-Lire, Ste-Thérèse, Québec (\$26,000)
- Lettres en Main, Montréal, Québec (\$7,000)
- Youth Horizon, Montréal, Québec (\$43,575)
- Atelier des Lettres, Montréal, Québec (\$18,000)
- Miramichi Literacy Council, Chatham, New Brunswick (\$10,000)
- Laubach Literacy of Canada, Saint John, New Brunswick (\$85,000)
- YMCA, Halifax, Nova Scotia (\$30,079)
- Mount Cashel Independent Studies' Program, St. John's, Newfoundland (\$29,200)
- Teachers on Wheels, St. John's, Newfoundland, (39,000)